

CROSS-GABLE HOUSE, VIRGINIA AND SHEALEY AVES.

Finding its roots in the central pediment the "cross-gable" is an architectural element that enjoyed particular popularity in America during most of the 19th century and at least a quarter of the 20th century. It can be found on residences, barns, stores and factories as early as the 1830's and as late as the 1930's. Studies in some sections of Maryland for this period show as many as 50% to 60% of the structures in a given area to have been cross-gables.

This town was no exception and there are at least twenty residences still standing in central Towson (Nov., 1977) to prove the fact.

The German Houses and the Chew House on the northwest corner of Shealey and Virginia Aves. are important not only as individual examples of this stylistic tradition but also as components of what was a continuous streetscape of cross-gable facades.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA - 1483

MA61-0314835504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cross - Gable House, Shealey Ave. (Chew House)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

515 Virginia Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Josef of Vienna Inc.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 5720

Folio #: 891

STREET & NUMBER

Pennsylvania Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>Fall, 1977</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house which stands at 515 Virginia Ave. is of cross gable design. This two story frame house is resting on a stone foundation approximately 38 inches off the ground. There are two corbeled interior chimneys at the East and West ends of the roof. The house is covered with cedar shingles which appear to be covering clapboards. The fenestration is regular, and all windows are surrounded with plain frames. An entrance is located in the South of the East end. A double hung window with 6/1 lights is located in the North bay. The second story windows are also double hung with 1/1 lights. A single story porch roof covers two bays of the south facade, wraps around the SE corner of the building and ends covering the two bays of the East facade. The porch rests upon brick piers. There is evidence of former lattice boarding between the bottom of the porch and the ground. Seven square columns support the porch. The porch has a tongue and groove ceiling and flooring. The space between the floor of the porch and the ledge is solid and shingled. The ledge is one foot wide and finished in a rounded molding. The South side of the house is three bays wide with a cross gabled roof, originally the front facade. The outside fenestration of the house suggests a centralized hall plan with possibly two rooms on each floor. Although windows are double hung they possibly are not the original windows. The cross gable is vented by an oculus window. On the exterior of the South side is evidence of a basement. Use of this and an entrance is uncertain. Projecting out of the West end is a shed roofed wing which appears to be a later addition. It is possibly a kitchen. This wing is resting upon a foundation of rusticated formstone. In the Southwest corner is a case-ment window which has 3 verticle lights in each half. In this same area is evidence of a 4' by 6' porch. The North side of the house has two double hung windows with 6/1 lights in the first story. The second corner of the dwelling which seems to accomodate a drainpipe which runs from the second story to the ground. This possibly was added to the house at a later date.

There is a single car garage located about 20 feet from the Northwest corner of the house. It is approximately 12 feet wide and 16 feet long. The walls are shingled like the house. The hipped roof is finished with a boxed cornice.

No statements can be made about the interior of the house since the owner refused permission to view the interior of the dwelling.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is significant because it is able to document the way Shealey Ave. looked before 1925 and perhaps before 1900. Mention is made of Virginia Ave. near Joppa Road and the surrounding area in the deed between the Chew family in 1867, Liber 54, Folio 267. Although the exact date of this building is not known, a late 19th century date is possible. The Hopkins Atlas of 1877 does show a building of this size on this plot of land as belonging to Charles Chew. It is also interesting to note that this area of Virginia Ave. was called "Chewville" in the mid-19th century and this building could be a visual document of their period.

The exact number of cross gable houses that were once in Towson is not known but the survey that is in progress, aided by a collection of early photos, indicate this to be an important architectural form in an understanding of this community's physical appearance in the 19th and Early 20th centuries. The examples of this type are beginning to disappear at a considerable rate, and this building should be seen as an example of a type that was popular not only in this neighborhood or town but indeed throughout America.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning for the same at the West side of Virginia Ave. at the intersection of the same with the North side of a road 20 feet wide leading from said Ave. to the Joppa Road, said point being also located in the third line of the second lot of parcels of land which, by Indenture dated June 18, 1867, and recorded among the land records of Baltimore County in Liber J.H.L. No. 54, folio 267, was conveyed by Benjamin Chew and others to Charles R. Chew; and running thence bounding on the North side of the said 28 foot Road, South 88 degrees West 89-1/12 feet to intersect the first line of the aforesaid

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Sue Greisman

WAYNE L. NIELD, II
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

Dec. 12, 1977

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Goucher College

TELEPHONE

825-3300

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Verbal Boundary Description Continued

second lot thence running with and bounding on part of said line as now indicated by the needle, North $5\frac{3}{4}$ degrees West 56- $\frac{3}{12}$ feet, thence along a line of fence as now erected North 89 degrees East 93- $\frac{2}{12}$ feet up Virginia Ave. and to intersect the first herein recited line and thence with said line and bounding on the West side of said Virginia Ave. South $1\frac{1}{2}$ degrees West 55- $\frac{2}{12}$ feet to the place of beginning containing 117/1000 acres of land thereon are now known as No. 15 Virginia Ave.

CROSS-GABLE - SHEALEY & VIRGINIA AVES.

Liber 5720, Folio 891 January 27, 1977
Grantor: David W. Irely & Theodore Coleman
Grantee: Josef of Vienna Inc.

"Beginning...West side of Virginia Ave. at the intersection
of the same with north side of a road...89 4/12'....117 acres of
land...known as No. 515 Virginia Ave."

Liber 5269, Folio 551 May 19, 1972
Grantor: Michael R. Deutschman et. al.
Grantee: Towson Associates

Liber 4100, Folio 493 January 16, 1963
Grantor: Towson Building Company, Inc.
Grantee: William L. Gaebel

Liber 3749, Folio 544 September 1, 1960
Grantor: Ethel V. Koerner
Grantee: Towson Building Co., Inc.

Liber 572, Folio 504 June 12, 1923
Grantor: Elizabeth A. Miles
Grantee: William M. Koerner & wife

Liber 185, Folio 545 April 29, 1891
Grantor: Henry B. Chew
Grantee: Elizabeth A. Miles

Will Book 5, Folio 44 Charles Ridgely Chew May 27, 1874
Referred to in the fourth item.

Liber 54, Folio 267 June 8, 1867 Deed of Partition
Between Charles R. Chew & wife
Benjamin Chew and Samuel Chew

Liber 29, Folio 90 April 19, 1860
Grantor: John Ridgely et. al.
Grantee: Henry B. Chew

Continuation Sheet

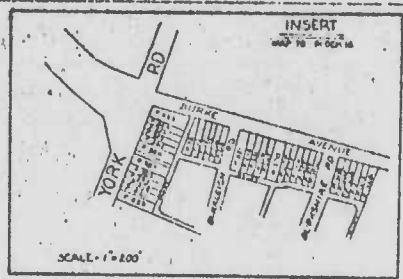
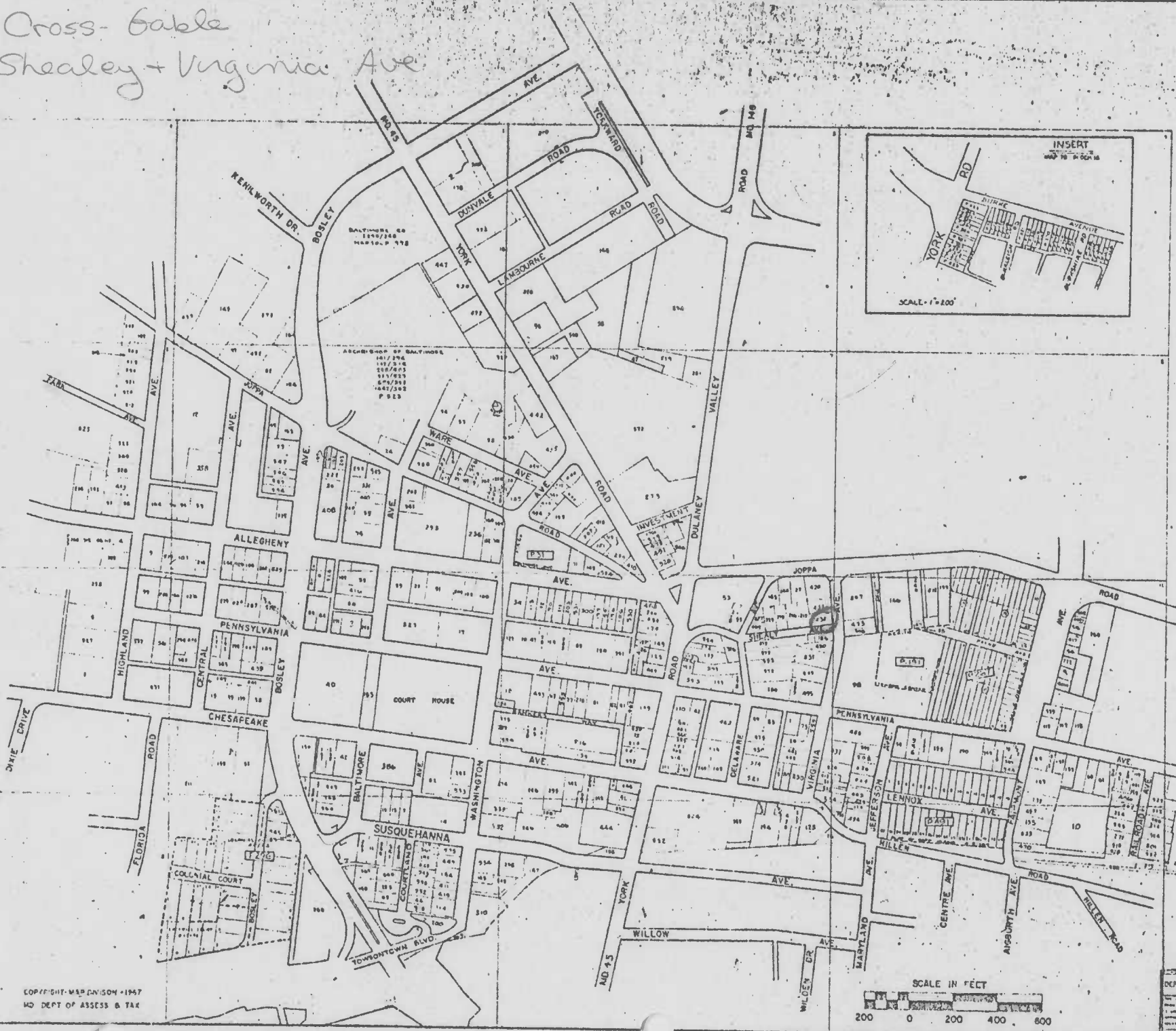
Title Search

Baltimore County Advocate February 11, 1860

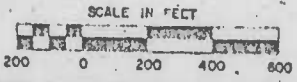
AD: Sale, Two story Frame dwelling - corner of Virginia Ave. and
Shealey Ave. Shortly to be completed.

BA-1483

Cross- Gable
Shealey + Virginia Ave



TOWSON
SCALE 1" = 200'



DEPT. OF ASSESSMENT & TAXATION
TAX MAP PROCESS

MAP M
70A

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MD DEPT OF ASSESS & TAX

PLAN OF TOWSONTOWN.

TOWSONTOWN.

Real Estate Agent.

H. L. BOWEN,

Surveyors and Engineers.

WHEELER & MELANE.

Dr. Bosley

BALTIMORE

Smedley

Prop.

J. F. Talbert

R. R. Boorman

WASHINGTON

C. H. Mann

SMEDLEY

HOUSE

Enos Smedley

AVE.

CHESAPEAKE

COURT

HOUSE

PENNSYLVANIA

J. T. Risor

Judge

Emery

W. S. Keach

D. H. Emery

D. G. Intosh

AVE.

ALLEGHENY

AVE.

J. T. Risor

Smedley

R. H. Hook

Mrs. Longnecker

J. W. Owings

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J. W. Owings

Dr. Bosley

Miss Julia

Barron

Est. of Mrs. E. Ware

W. F. Mitchell

Mrs. Staum

A. House

Wm. Gulloway

J. W. Gulloway

J. W. Gulloway

J. W. Gulloway

J. W. Gulloway

J. W. Gulloway

J. W. Gulloway

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J. W. Gulloway

Est. of Mrs. E. Ware

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Est. of Mrs. E. Ware

Est. of Mrs. E. Ware

Ware Heirs.

Scale 200. Feet per inch.

200 400 600

DELAWARE AVE.

AVE.

VIRGINIA

JEFFERSON

EPSON M. E. CHURCH

Chew Estate

AVE.

Sum?

Chew

AVE.

Chew

AVE.

Chew

AVE.

Chew

AVE.



BA- 1483

CROSS - GABLE
SHEALEY + VIRGINIA AVES.
S.W.

W. NIELD